

REMARKS

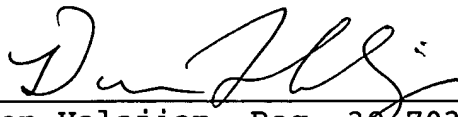
Entry of the present preliminary amendment is respectfully requested, claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 5-6 and 9-11 have been amended and claims 12-25 have been added.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 5-25 are allowable as they include similar patentable features as in the claims of the parent application Serial No. 09/310,087, which has issued as US Patent No. 6,363,341 B1. For example, claim 12 contains features similar to claim 6 of US 6,363,341 B1; claim 16 contains features similar to claim 5 of US 6,363,341 B1; and dependent claims 13-15, 17-19, 20-22 and 23-25 are similar to dependent claims 2-4 of US 6,363,341 B1.

An early action on the merits is respectfully solicited. If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

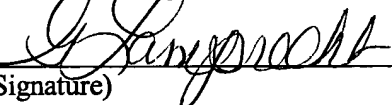
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March 30, 2005

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